

Sirhan Transferred to San Quentin Amid Secrecy

Assassin Is Flown to Death Row in an 'Uneventful' Predawn Operation

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., May 23 (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan was secretly transferred today to San Quentin prison where he was locked up in a small, rectangular death-row cell.

The convicted assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was spirited from the Los Angeles County jail at 3 A.M. and flown 400 miles by helicopter and state-owned airplane to San Quentin in an operation described as "uneventful."

Sirhan is being kept in Cell 33, South Side, Condemned Unit I, generally known as death row.

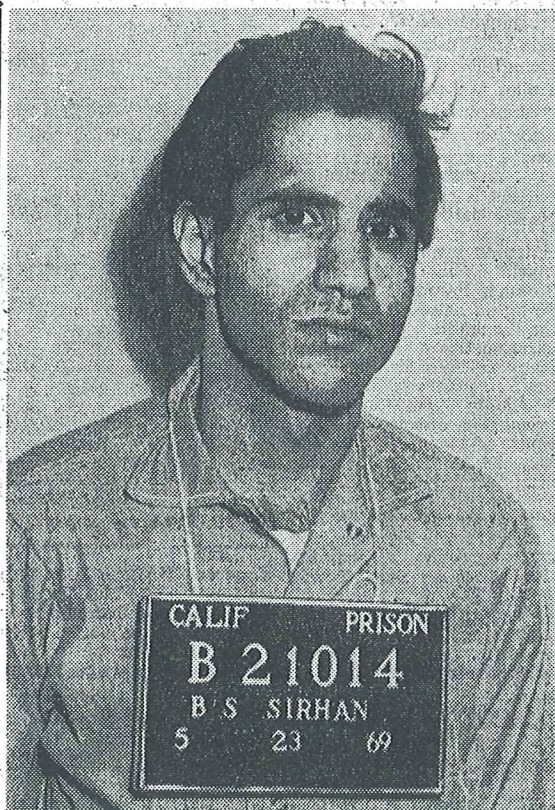
He was met at Marin County Airport by a six-car security convoy, which rushed him to the maximum security prison. The yellow-walled institution hugs a corner of the bay about 20 miles north of San Francisco, but all Sirhan can see is a patch of sky above his barred window.

Cell Heavily Guarded

Capt. Don Weber, chief of security, said Sirhan "appeared alert and interested and asked a good many questions about the institution during the car trip."

Once inside, he was hurried through processing by special guards and locked in his isolated and heavily guarded cell before breakfast.

Although 79 other prisoners are awaiting execution on death row, only 25 share this particular cellblock with Sirhan. His quarters are at one end of the wing and two cells — one on each side — remain permanently empty.



Associated Press

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan as he was photographed for an identification picture at San Quentin Prison early yesterday.

Before Sirhan arrived, news-men were allowed to inspect the facilities.

Cell 33 is 4½ feet wide, 7 feet high and 11 feet deep. A single bare overhead bulb illuminates a toilet, wash basin, two steel shelves, a tiny table, a flat spring cot with a hard mattress and two woolen blankets.

Directly in front is a concrete "front yard" reserved exclusively for Sirhan's exercise periods of 3½ hours daily.

The prisoner is able to watch a television set through the bars of the cell. He can also listen to the radio through a headset.

No prisoners, not even the trustees who feed death row inmates, will be allowed to get near Sirhan.